

NEWS

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Rumson Doctor Sentenced to 41 Months for Prescribing Controlled Drugs to Patients and Money Laundering

(More)

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TRENTON – A Rumson physician was sentenced today to 41 months in prison for unlawfully prescribing the controlled painkiller oxycodone without a legitimate medical purpose and outside the usual course of professional practice, Acting U.S. Attorney Ralph J. Marra, Jr., announced.

U.S. District Judge Anne E. Thompson also imposed a \$9,000 fine on Dr. Philip B. Eatough, 62, and ordered him to surrender to the federal Bureau of Prisons by June 1 to begin serving his sentence.

Eatough also forfeited \$120,000 to the government, representing the amount of money he laundered as part of his crimes. Eatough also paid the IRS back taxes of \$302,000, including interest and penalties.

Eatough, who practiced from an office in Keansburg, was arrested on an Indictment in October 2007 by Special Agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration. He pleaded guilty last July.

During the plea hearing, Eatough admitted that in December 2004 he distributed oxycodone under two separate prescriptions to a patient, in dosages that were outside the scope of professional medical practice. As part of the plea agreement, Eatough had to surrender his medical license to the New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners, and any other state in which he was licensed to practice. Eatough also surrendered his DEA registration, which allowed him to dispense controlled substances as a practicing physician.

Eatough pleaded guilty to two counts of distribution of a controlled substance without a legitimate medical purpose and outside the usual course of professional practice, and to money laundering conspiracy.

Marra credited Special Agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Gerald P. McAleer, with the investigation of Eatough.

The government was represented by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Robert Frazer and Matthew Beck of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force of the U.S. Attorney's Office in Newark.

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Defense Counsel: John McDonald, Esq., Somerville